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NOV 06 1991

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NOTED BY \_\_\_\_\_

29th October 1991  
NM/BMM/31542

Dear Morey,

New U.S. Patent Application  
Fabriques de Tabac Reunies SA  
Your File: FTR-0110 - Our file: 31542

Thank you for your letter of 18th October 1991. I enclose herewith the references cited in the EPO standard search conducted on the U.K. priority application, GB 9022530.1.

As you know, all the references were cited as technological background only, and I entirely agree with this assessment. I will discuss each reference briefly, and will be happy to provide any further information you may need.

EP 0 295 835. This application, which is cited in the application, and was the inventors' starting point for the present invention, discloses a filter having a perforate tube extending from the tobacco rod end toward the mouth end, but stopping short thereof. The delivery profile of the cigarette is substantially level, since the perforations in the tube become successively blocked from the mouth end of the tube.

The present invention acts to maintain a level delivery profile in the same way, but overcomes problems encountered with the filters of the reference in maintaining a consistent delivery from cigarette to cigarette.

GB 2 007 490 discloses a filter having a central bore extending from the rod end toward, but ending short of, the mouth end. It is not clear whether or not the bore must have impervious walls, but, in any event, there is no disclosure of the bore having perforate walls, nor of progressive blocking. Still less is there any disclosure of the claimed filter.

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GB 2 172 186 provides a filter having a central bore which is open at the mouth end, and may be open at the rod end. Ambient areas admitted into the bore through radial passages, allowing air and smoke to pass separately into the smoker's mouth.

This is clearly an entirely different type of filter from that of the present invention.

FR 2 342 671 discloses a filter having a central tube extending from the tobacco rod end toward, but ending short of the mouth end. Again, it is not clear whether or not the walls of the bore need be impervious, but there is no disclosure of a perforate bore and progressive blocking, and certainly no disclosure of the present invention.

GB 2 091 078 discloses a filter having a wide central bore extending partially from the rod end towards the mouth end. The purpose of the bore is to act as an air-smoke mixing chamber, into which ambient air is admitted. There is no disclosure that the wall of the chamber should be impervious, nor of any of the other features characterized in the present invention.

FR 1 446 636 discloses a filter having a tube extending through it, which may have longitudinal slots in. There appears to be no prospect of these slots becoming progressively blocked, and certainly there is no disclosure of this. Still less is there any disclosure of the other characterizing features of the present invention.

I trust this information is sufficient for you to prepare the information disclosure statement; please let me know if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,



N. Marlow

Encs.

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